

In response to the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-18 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,513,036 to Fruensgaard, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,489,968 to Ortega, the Applicant herein amends the Claims to define the present invention more distinctly over the cited prior art. Specifically, the subject matter of Claims 8-10 is incorporated in Claim 1, and the entry of each keyword of a Boolean operator pair for search objects as line and following entries which are tracked by their weight values is defined more clearly. The added claim recitations are fully supported in the Specification as originally filed, and no new matter has been added.

Fruensgaard discloses continuously refining a user's personal library of references to information searched by the user by presenting search objects to the user and dynamically updating contextual representations for objects selected by the user in the user's personal library. However, Fruensgaard does not disclose or suggest the approach as now defined in amended main Claim 1 of building a user's personal profile in the form of a Personal Word Map in which each keyword of a pair of associated keywords used as Boolean operators (which returned an object in a search query that was selected by the user) is entered on the Personal Word Map is entered as a separate line entry if not previously listed, and each associated keyword of the pair is entered as a following entry if not previously listed, and if the keyword is already listed then the associated weight value for the keyword is incremented by one, such that the Personal Word Map becomes continuously refined to reflect the user's interests in selections made over time. The Examiner cited the Ortega patent as teaching the tracking of weight values of category nodes traversed by a user in a browse tree. However, Ortega does not suggest entering keyword pairs of search operators as line and following entries on a Personal Word Map and tracking the number of times the paired keywords are used for objects successively selected by the user. The combination of teachings of Fruensgaard and Ortega taken together would, at best, result in tracking the weight values of category hierarchy levels traversed by the selection of search objects by the user over time, but cannot result in the incremental Personal Word Map building as now more clearly defined in amended main Claim 1.

Claims 4, 8-10 and 18 are herein cancelled. The remaining dependent claims are maintained, with corrections consistent with the amendment of main Claim 1, and are deemed to be patentable for the same reasons as amended main Claim 1.

In summary, Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 11-17 are deemed to be patentably distinct over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance, and it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued upon reconsideration.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicant hereby request a 3-month extension of time for response to the Examiner's action, i.e., until September 4, 2004. Our check for \$475.00 for the required 3-month extension fee (small entity) is enclosed.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT FOR ANY DEFICIENCY

This response is filed with a certificate of mailing within the time allowed for response, and with total and independent claims after amendment numbering within the limits originally paid for with the filing fee. However, if any fees are deemed to be due for acceptance of this response, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 502633.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is being mailed on August 13, 2004, by depositing it with the U.S. Postal Service, first class postage paid, addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Respectfully submitted,
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